



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Announces Formation of School Sites Unit

SACRAMENTO--- Citing the need to focus greater resources and state oversight to overseeing environmental assessments of hazardous material and cleanup at school sites in Los Angeles County, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Ed Lowry today announced the formation of a seven-member School Sites Unit within the DTSC's Southern California Site Mitigation Program.

The seven-member unit, consisting of a Hazardous Substances Scientist as Supervisor, three Hazardous Substances Engineers and three Hazardous Substances Scientists, was formed to oversee environmental assessments and investigations at existing and new school sites in Los Angeles County. In addition, support from other DTSC programs such as Public Participation and Toxicology will also be augmented to assist in these important projects.

"This new unit consists of technical staffers and engineers who have years of professional and practical experience in working at hazardous waste sites. Harnessing these resources will enable the DTSC to carry out the vital work of analyzing work submitted by LAUSD during their environmental assessments and investigations at existing and proposed school sites," said Lowry. "The unit will also work on other sites where they have signed Voluntary Cleanup Agreements," Lowry added.

At the newly constructed Jefferson Middle School, in South Central Los Angeles, the unit will oversee twelve (12) specific tasks including: the development of a Supplemental Subsurface Monitoring Assessment Program; evaluation of the Soil Vapor Extraction System; development of a Remedial Action Plan (cleanup plan); and the development of a baseline health risk assessment.

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At the Belmont Learning Center, currently under construction in downtown Los Angeles, the unit will oversee the development and implementation of a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RIFS) Workplan designed to characterize subsurface soil, soil vapor and groundwater contamination associated with the site; development of a Health Risk Assessment; and development and implementation of a Remedial Action Plan (Cleanup Plan). Other planned tasks at the Belmont Learning Complex include reviewing recommendations and overseeing the development of modifications to an existing gas venting system.

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DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.